

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 JUSE-00
SEC-01 /068 W

-----160554Z 093203 /22

R 151508Z EPR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4008
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSSL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: LOCKHEED INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE DECIDES AGAINST FURTHER
INQUIRIES DIRECTED AGAINST PRESIDENT LEONE

REF: A) ROME 3989; B) ROME 3750

1. SUMMARY. IN A CLOSED MORNING SESSION ON APRIL 14 THE
PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY COMMITTEE ON THE LOCKHEED CASE VOTED
NOT TO HEAR TESTIMONY FROM RAD CAL LEADER GIACINTO PANNELLA
WHO HAD REQUESTED THAT THE INVESTIGATION BE REOPENED TO
ASSESS THE RADICAL PARTY'S CHARGES AGAINST PRESIDENT LEONE
AND OTHERS. IN A PUBLIC SESSION THAT EVENING THE COMMITTEE
VOTED 19 TO 1 TO CLOSE THE INVESTIGATION AND SEND ITS
RECORDS TO THE ARCHIVES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 14 THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY COMMITTEE ON THE
LOCKHEED CASE OPENED AND RESUMED ITS PROCEEDINGS ON CHARGES
AGAINST PRESIDENT LEONE AND OTHERS THAT WERE PUT FORWARD
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BY RADICAL PARTY LEADER GIACINTO PANNELLA DURING THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF X-MINISTERS
GUI AND TANASSI. IN A CLOSED MORNING SESSION THE
COMMITTEE VOTED 19 TO 1 NOT TO HEAR TESTIMONY FROM
PANNELLA ON GROUNDS THAT HE HAD NO NEW EVIDENCE TO
PRESENT. IN THE EVENING SESSION, WHICH WAS OPEN

TO THE PUBLIC, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED, AGAIN BY A VOTE OF 19 TO 1, THAT FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF THE LOCKHEED CASE WAS NOT WARRANTED ON THE BASIS OF THE DOCUMENTATION PRESENTED BY THE RADICALS. THE COMMITTEE'S RECORDS WERE RETIRED TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ARCHIVES.

3. THE SINGLE NEGATIVE VOTE IN BOTH INSTANCES WAS CAST BY PSI SENATOR GUIDO CAMPOPIANO, WHO STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO VOTE ACCORDING TO HIS CONSCIENCE AND THAT HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE FACTS DIFFERED FROM THAT OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. THE ONLY OTHER SOCIALIST ON THE COMMITTEE VOTED WITH THE MAJORITY. CAMPOPIANO'S POSITION WAS ATTACKED BY

NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO SPOKE AT THE PUBLIC SESSION, INCLUDING PCI DEPUTY UGO SPAGNOLI AND PCI SENATOR FRN NESCO D'A NGELOSANTE. THE LATTER ACCUSED CAMPOPIANO OF TRYING TO SADDLE PRESIDENT LEONE, WHOSE BEHAVIOR AS PRIME MINISTER WAS "DUTIFUL AND CORRECT", WITH THE ALLEGED CRIMES OF GUI AND ANASSI. DEPUTY CLEMENTE MANCO OF THE NEWLY FORMED RIGHTIST DEMOCRAZIA NAZIONETE ALSO SPOKE AGAINST CAMPOPIANO AND VOTED WITH THE MAJORITY.

4. AFTER THE VOTE, THE RADICAL PARLIAMENTARIANS DESCENDED ON THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE WHERE THEY PRESENTED THEIR CHARGES AGAINST NUMBER OF NON-PARLIAMENTARIAN, INCLUDING TWO AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF LOCKHEED, TO THE PROCURATOR GENERAL FOR INVESTIGATION.

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5. COMMENT. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE COMMITTEE'S OVERRIDING CONCERN WAS TO BRING AN END TO PARLIAMENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR. THE PCI PROVIDED THE VOTES NEEDED TO SHELVE THE RADICAL ACCUSATIONS BECAUSE IT HAS NO DESIRE TO SEE A PUBLIC INVESTIGATION OF THE PRESIDENT WHICH WOULD FURTHER POLARIZE ITALIAN POLITICS AT A TIME WHEN THE PARTY IS SEEKING TO EXPAND ITS INFLUENCE ON GOVERNMENT POLICY-MAKING THROUGH PROGRAMMATIC ACCORDS WITH THE DC AND THE LAY PARTIES. THE HCI'S POSITION IS ALSO A REFLECTION OF ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BUMBUSTIOUS RADICALS WHO HAVE PRE-EMPTED A NUMBER OF THE PCI'S TRADITIONAL POSITIONS AND HAVE BECOME, BY DEFAULT, THE VOICE OF THE LEFTIST OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT AND THEREFORE SOMETHING OF A THREAT TO THE PCI. IN ANY EVENT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE PARLIAMENT HAS, WITH A SIGH OF RELIEF, CONSIGNED FURTHER

INQUIRIES INTO THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR TO THE COURTS.GARDNER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, INVESTIGATIONS, PRESIDENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME06185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770132-0796
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704101/aaaafsfa.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 4ef1b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ROME 3989, 77 ROME 3750
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2664076
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970829
Subject: LOCKHEED INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE DECIDES AGAINST FURTHER INQUIRIES DIRECTED AGAINST PESIDENT LEONE
TAGS: PINT, IT, LOCKHEED, PINT, (LEONE, GIOVANNI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4ef1b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009